

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the buffer container includes a film covering one end of the container.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~1~~ 7, further comprising a spike positioned in the wand assembly and configured to rupture the buffer container to allow a buffer to exit the buffer container and flow into the chamber.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the chamber includes vents.
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the handle removably attaches to the wand assembly by the swab inserting into the shaft of the wand assembly.
6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein a cover of the handle is configured to detach from the swab when the swab is attached to the wand assembly.
7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for preparing samples for Polymerase Chain Reaction analysis comprising:
 - a handle;
 - a swab, including a chamber, attached to an end of the handle, wherein the swab includes a stabilized reagent in the chamber and a sample tube extending from an end of the chamber; and
 - a wand assembly including a buffer container at an end of a shaft and a stand at another end of the shaft;
 - wherein the handle is configured to be attached to the wand assembly, and

wherein the wand assembly includes an extendable grip.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the stand is configured to attach to a slot in a hand-held detector for biological materials.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the handle and wand assembly are configured to be portable.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~1~~ 7, further comprising an absorbent material attached at an end of the swab.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the absorbent material is held in place by a retaining ring.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein a mesh covers the absorbent material.

13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10, further comprising a mesh underneath the absorbent material.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the absorbent material comprises paper.

15. – 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A biological sampling method for dry and/or processed samples, comprising the following steps:

providing a handle containing an absorbent material and stabilized reagent and wiping the absorbent material over a test surface; and

providing a wand assembly and inserting the handle into the wand assembly, thereby rupturing a buffer container to enable a buffer to be released through the absorbent material and into a chamber for mixing with the reagent and filling a sample tube;

sealing the chamber by fully inserting a swab of the handle into the wand assembly;

extending a grip on the wand;

removing a cover on the swab, and moving the wand by executing two whip actions wherein one end of the wand is moved over an arcuate distance that is greater than another end of the wand;

retracting the grip on the wand; and

inserting the wand into a hand-held detector for biological materials.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the buffer container is ruptured by rupturing a film covering one end of the container.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the absorbent material comprises paper.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the absorbent material is covered by a mesh.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising a mesh under the absorbent material.

31. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preparing samples for Polymerase Chain Reaction analysis comprising:

a handle;

a swab, including a chamber, attached to the handle, wherein the swab includes a reagent in the chamber and a sample tube in fluid communication with the chamber; and

a wand assembly including an extendable grip and a buffer container containing a buffer, the apparatus being adapted to direct the buffer from the buffer container and into the chamber;

wherein the handle is configured to be attached to the wand assembly.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the buffer container includes a film covering one end of the container.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 33, further comprising a spike positioned in the wand assembly and configured to rupture the buffer container to allow a buffer to exit the buffer container and flow into the chamber.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the chamber includes vents.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the handle removably attaches to the wand assembly by the swab inserting into the shaft of the wand assembly.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 37, wherein a cover of the handle is configured to detach from the swab when the swab is attached to the wand assembly.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Canceled).

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the handle and wand assembly are configured to be portable.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 33, further comprising an absorbent material attached at an end of the swab.

43. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 42, wherein the absorbent material is held in place by a retaining ring.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 42, wherein a mesh covers the absorbent material.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising a mesh underneath the absorbent material.